

6 San Quentin inmates confirmed suffering from Legionnaires'

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ABC News 7

Officials at San Quentin State Prison are cutting water use at the 3,700-inmate complex after six inmates have caught the severe form of pneumonia, officials said Sunday.

Six California inmates [are suffering from Legionnaires' disease](#) and 51 others are under observation for the bacteria at San Quentin State Prison, officials said Sunday.

Prisoners are eating boxed meals and drinking water from bottles and tanks while officials investigate how the inmates contracted the severe form of pneumonia, [according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation](#).

Officials have cut water use at the 3,700-inmate complex north of San Francisco, in addition to suspending visits

and new prisoner intake as they try to find the source of the outbreak, [the Los Angeles Times reported](#).



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Prisoners began using the complex's toilets again over the weekend after officials arranged for 100 port-a-potties following the first confirmed case on Wednesday.

The convicts began using the prison's toilets again over the weekend after officials had arranged for 100 port-a-potties when they confirmed the first case on Wednesday, [reports KGO-TV](#). Corrections officials approved the use of the plumbed toilets only after discussing the matter with local, state and national public-health experts.

Portable shower units for the prisoners arrived at the complex on Saturday, they noted. Prison officers are curbing steam, mist and moisture in an attempt to squelch the Legionella bacteria, which breed in water and expand through water molecules. Officials are also meeting with inmate representatives to discuss the growing number of cases.

Five inmates are receiving treatment at nearby hospitals, while others who have shown early symptoms are getting care at the prison's medical. The six prisoners with the confirmed cases were in stable condition on Sunday, Corrections spokeswoman Dana Simas told the Times.

Medium- and high-security inmates are "staying in their cells because we don't have the staff to monitor movements while we conduct the investigation," Simas said.

Early symptoms of the sometimes-fatal disease known for wreaking havoc at a 1976 American Legion convention include coughing, headaches, muscle aches and high fevers, [according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Between 8,000 and 18,000 people are hospitalized with Legionnaires' disease annually, according to the CDC.

[A dozen New Yorkers died](#) from the disease and at least 127 others caught it before health officials in New York City declared an outbreak in the South Bronx over on Aug. 20. A cooling tower at the Opera House Hotel caused the bacteria, City Health Commissioner Mary Bassett said.

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